

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 AGR-05

FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00

DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00

FRB-03 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /123 W

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R 240645Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 356

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1779

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON'S MEETING WITH PARVIZ MINA

1. ON FEB 18, UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON MET FOR 40 MINUTES WITH
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NIOC DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DR. PARVIZ MINA. UNDER-

SECRETARY OPENED CONVERSATION BY REFERRING TO SHOCK OF ADJUSTMENT TO HIGHER PETROLEUM PRICES. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH EASIER, HE SAID, IF PRICES HAD BEGUN TO RISE EARLIER AND HAD RISEN TO PRESENT LEVELS SEVERAL YEARS FROM NOW. HE EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. APPROACH IS COOPERATIVE AND THAT USG UNDERSTANDS AND ACCEPTS REASONS FOR EXISTENCE OF OPEC. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, A PRODUCER/CONSUMER MEETING MUST NOT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, AND THERE MUST BE ADEQUATE PREPARATION ON BOTH SIDES TO ASSURE THAT IT WILL NOT BE. ROBINSON FURTHER EMPHASIZED USG WANTS PRODUCERS' IDEAS AND IS WILLING TO CONSIDER ALL IDEAS, INCLUDING INDEXING, A FLOOR PRICE, ETC. USG, HE SAID, HAS NO PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS, WANTS TO DISCUSS HOW TO RECYCLE MONEY NONDISRUPTIVELY, HOW US AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS CAN AID DEVELOPMENT OF OPEC MEMBERS, AND HOW INDUSTRIALIZED AND OPEC COUNTRIES CAN WORK TOGETHER TO AID MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED NATIONS.

2. MINA REPLIED THAT HE WAS GRATIFIED BY EVIDENCE, SUCH AS UNDERSECRETARY'S VISIT, THAT USG IS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE. HE ASSURED UNDERSECRETARY THAT GOI AND OTHER OPEC MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS AND OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO BOTH INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS. WE WANT, HE SAID, TO GO TO THE TABLE WITH YOU WITH OPEN MINDS, NOT TO SIT ACROSS A TABLE FROM YOU, BUT TO SIT WITH YOU AROUND A TABLE. BUT, HE SAID, OIL PRICES CANNOT BE ISOLATED FROM OTHER PROBLEMS, SUCH AS THE PRESENT INADEQUATE MONETARY SYSTEM. DR. MINA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MARCH OPEC SUMMIT WILL MAKE CLEAR OPEC'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE. HE SAID THAT AFTER THAT MEETING OPEC WILL STATE ITS VIEWS IN STEPS TOWARD A MEETING WITH PRODUCERS; PERSONALLY, HE FELT IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO HOLD A PREPARATORY MEETING AT THE EXPERT LEVEL.

3. UNDERSECRETARY ASKED MINA WHAT HE THOUGHT OF YAMANI PROPOSAL OF A SMALL MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING. MINA SAID HE THOUGHT YAMANI PROPOSAL INVOLVED SOUND LIST OF INVITEES, BUT WONDERED WHAT REACTION OF IRAQ AND LIBYA MAY BE. BOTH MINA AND UNDERSECRETARY AGREED THAT IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING, MEETING MUST BE SMALL.

4. UNDERSECRETARY ASKED IF GOI STILL SUPPORTS INDEXING. MINA REPLIED THAT IT DID, AND WENT ON TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF SELECTING THE COMMODITIES, GIVING THEM APPROPRIATE WEIGHT IN THE INDEX AND CONFIDENTIAL

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CHOOSING A FORMULA THROUGH WHICH INDEXING MIGHT BE APPLIED GRADUALLY. HE SAID GOI HAS SET UP GROUP OF EXPERTS FROM NIOC, CENTRAL BANK, MINECON AND FINANCE, ETC. TO STUDY WHAT SHOULD BE COMPOSITION OF MARKET BASKED FROM IRAN'S POINT OF VIEW. EACH OPEC MEMBER WILL DO ITS OWN STUDIES, HE SAID, THE OPEC WILL TRY TO FIND AN ADEQUATE COMPOSITE. IRAN IS CONSIDERING SUCH ITEMS AS MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, MANUFACTURED CONSUMER GOODS, CHEMICALS, FOOD AND LIVESTOCK, AND NONFOOD RAW MATERIALS.

5. UNDERSECRETARY ASKED IF IRAN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LONG-TERM
CONTRACTS FOR CRUDE BASED ON MINIMUM PRICE AND OFFTAKE
GUARANTEES. MINA SAID IRAN WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED: IRAN WILL
PRODUCE ACCORDING TO DEMAND AND MAINTAIN PRICE AT LEVEL TO ENCOUR-
AGE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES.
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